panel of Legal Aid Counsels leads to avoidable delay in arranging immediate legal aid. The Law Ministers, accordingly, emphasized the need for maintaining an approved panel of Legal Aid Counsels by each Legal Services Authority/ Committee, particularly at District and Taluk levels wherever it is not there.

(x) The Law Ministers also took note of the fact that advocates are generally reluctant to take up legal aid work and that the low fee-structure for legal aid advocates in several States, makes legal aid work less attractive to them. The Law Ministers emphasized the need for prescribing a reasonable fee structure so as to attract the best talent in the field towards legal aid work.

(xi) The Law Ministers considered that adequate representation of the advocates belonging to the weaker sections of the society, such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and Women in the panel of Legal Aid Counsels is necessary in order to ensure that the cases of beneficiaries belonging to these categories are handled with a better understanding of the problems faced by these weaker sections of the society. The Law Ministers accordingly recommended that as far as practicable, at least 50% of the persons empanelled as legal aid counsel should belong to these weaker sections of the society.

(xii) The Law Ministers further considered that the Legal Services Authorities/Committees at the District and Taluk levels should be allocated specifically earmarked funds. The provision of specific financial allocations coupled with the grant of financial independence to these authorities/committees may help in providing legal aid to the needy in an expeditious manner.

Model Code of Conduct

1518. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to codify the Model Code of Conduct for Elections;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government had sought the views of the Election Commission on the recommendation of the Goswami Committee for giving statutory backing to the Model Code of Conduct, violation of which to be made an electoral offence. The Election Commission is, however, not in favour of giving statutory backing to the provisions of the Model Code of Conduct.

Irregularities in voters list

†1519. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL. Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a large number of foreign citizens have got their names registered in the voters list;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken to remove such bogus voters; and

(c) the States with maximum number of bogus voters?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The Election Commission of India has informed that as per the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, only Indian citizens are eligible for inclusion in the electoral rolls. However, sometimes during intensive revision (House to House enumeration) or summary revision (the period of filing claims and objections), names of some ineligible persons who do not fulfil the qualification of Indian citizenship find their way into the electoral roll due to false information provided by the persons. As such no data of foreign citizens who have got their names registered in electoral roll is available with the Commission. Whenever such cases of wrongful inclusion come to the notice of the Electoral Registration authorities, immediate action is taken to remove such names from the electoral roll.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.